

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1075

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005

PRIVATE TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN UTTAR PRADESH

Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the consumers are preferring private telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunications Zone (East);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether CCB and PCO are not working properly particularly in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunications Zone (East);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. There has been overwhelming response of the consumers towards Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). BSNL launched its cellular mobile services in October, 2002 and within a short span of two years and 4 months BSNL has about 7,14,664 cellular subscribers in UP(East) service area. Thus, BSNL with about 43% subscriber base has become second largest GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) based cellular service provider in U.P(East) in January, 2005. BSNL has further plan to augment the network capacity by 6.5 Lakhs lines in U.P. (East) cellular service area in the year 2005 to ensure good quality of service and also to meet overwhelming demand of the consumers.

(c) & (d) While most of the Coin Collection Box (CCB) and Public Call Offices (PCOs) provided by BSNL in Uttar Pradesh are functioning properly, 99 PCOs in U.P.(East) Telecom Circle are reported faulty mainly on account of damage to the underground cable due to ongoing road widening work of National Highway.

(e) BSNL has already initiated action for seeking road cutting permission from National Highway Authority of India to lay the new cable for restoration of faulty PCOs. In addition, action has been initiated to procure FWTs (Fixed Wireless Terminals) to restore PCOs using WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) System.